

LOGICAL FUZZY UNION AND INTERSECTION OPERATION CALCULATION CIRCUIT

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to a logical fuzzy union and intersection operation
5 calculation circuit.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As is known, in fuzzy logic the implementation of the so-called inference
rules requires the performance of logical intersection and union operations of two or more
data constituted by the values assumed by the quantities taken into consideration by the
10 inference rules, wherein the union operation requires the greatest of the data to be
determined while the intersection operation requires the smallest of said data to be
determined.

At the present time, in the majority of systems operating with fuzzy logic,
the logical fuzzy union and intersection operations are carried out either using dedicated
15 calculation circuits or mixed calculation circuits capable of calculating both non-fuzzy and
fuzzy rules, but still using calculation circuits dedicated to calculating intersection and
union operations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An embodiment of the present invention provides a logical fuzzy union and
20 intersection operation calculation circuit which is simple and which uses a traditional
architecture generally dedicated to the calculation of arithmetic/logical operations.

The calculation circuit includes a subtracter, a comparator, and a first data
selector. The subtracter has a first and a second input receiving a first and a second input
datum, respectively; a first output supplying a first output datum correlated to the
25 difference between the first and second input datum; and a second output supplying a sign
flag indicating the sign of the first output datum. The comparator has a first input receiving

the sign flag, a second input receiving a first selection signal assuming a first level for the selection of the logical fuzzy union operation and a second level for the selection of the logical fuzzy intersection operation; and an output supplying a second selection signal assuming a first level when the sign flag and the first selection signal comply with a pre-determined relation and a second level when the sign flag and the first selection signal do not comply with the pre-determined relation. The first data selector has a first and a second datum input receiving the first and the second input datum, respectively; a selection input connected to the output of the comparison means and receiving the second selection signal; and an output supplying a second output datum correlated to one of the first and second input data as a function of the level of the second selection signal.

The calculation circuit also may include a second data selector having a first and a second datum input connected to the output of the first data selector and, respectively, to the first output of the subtracter and receiving the first and the second output datum, respectively; a selection input; and an output. The selection input receives a third selection signal assuming a first level for the selection of an operating mode in fuzzy logic and a second level for the selection of an operating mode in non-fuzzy logic. The output supplies a fourth output datum correlated to one of the first and second output datum as a function of the level of the third selection signal.

20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the invention a preferred embodiment will now be described, purely by way of non-exhaustive example and with reference to the accompanying drawing, which shows a calculation circuit for performing logical fuzzy union and intersection operations according to the invention.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in the accompanying drawing, the calculation circuit, indicated as a whole by 1, comprises a subtracter 2 having a first and a second input 2a, 2b receiving a

first and, respectively, a second input datum A, B having a binary representation and each formed by n bits, a first output 2c supplying a first output datum D, having a binary representation and formed by n bits, equal to the binary difference between the first and the second input datum A, B, *i.e.*, $D=A-B$, and a second output 2d supplying a sign flag F, having a binary representation and formed by a single bit, representative of the sign of the first output datum D, for example $F=0$ if $A \geq B$ and $F=1$ if $A < B$.

The calculation circuit 1 further comprises an XOR logic gate 4 having a first input 4a connected to the second output 2d of the subtracter 2 and receiving the sign flag F, a second input 4b receiving a first logic selection signal S1 and an output 4c supplying a second logic selection signal S2 obtained by performing the EXCLUSIVE OR (or identity check) operation between the sign flag F and the level of the first selection signal S1, according to the known equation $S2 = F \cdot \overline{S1} + \overline{F} \cdot S1$.

In particular, the first selection signal S1 assumes a first logic level, a low logic level for example, when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical fuzzy union operation and a second logic level, a high logic level in the example in question, when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical fuzzy intersection operation, while the second selection signal S2 assumes, in the example in question, a low logic level when the sign flag F and the first selection signal assume equal logic values while it assumes a high logic level when the sign flag F and the first selection signal assume different logic values.

The calculation circuit 1 further comprises a first multiplexer 6 having a first and a second datum input 6a, 6b receiving the first and, respectively, the second input datum A, B, a selection input 6c connected to the output 4c of the XOR logic gate 4 and receiving the second selection signal S2, and an output 6d supplying a second output datum C constituted by the first input datum A when the second selection signal S2 assumes a first logic level, a low logic level for example, and by the second input datum B when the second selection signal S2 assumes a second logic level, a high logic level in the example in question.

Finally the calculation circuit 1 comprises a second multiplexer 8 having a first datum input 8a connected to the output 6d of the first multiplexer 6 and receiving the second output datum C, a second datum input 8b connected to the output 2c of the subtracter 2 and receiving the first output datum D, a selection input 8c receiving a third logic selection signal S3 and an output 8d supplying a third output datum R constituted by the second output datum C present at the output of the first multiplexer 6 when the third selection signal S3 assumes a first logic level, a low logic level for example, and by the first output datum D present at the output of the subtracter 2 when the third selection signal S3 assumes a second logic level, a high logic level in the example in question.

10 In particular, the third selection signal S3 assumes a first logic level, a low logic level for example, when it is desired to operate in fuzzy logic, *i.e.*, when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical fuzzy union and intersection operations, and a second logic level, a high logic level in the example in question, when it is desired to operate in conventional binary logic, *i.e.*, when the calculation circuit 1 is
15 desired to perform the logical operation of conventional binary subtraction.

The calculation circuit 1 operates as follows.

When the third selection signal S3 assumes a high logic level, the output 8d of the second multiplexer 8 is connected to the second data input 8b of said second multiplexer 8, at which there is present the first output datum D equal to the difference
20 between the input data A and B and supplied by the subtracter 2. In this condition the calculation circuit 1 thus operates as a subtracter circuit performing a subtraction operation in conventional binary logic.

When the third selection signal S3 assumes a low logic level, the output 8d of the second multiplexer 8 is connected to the first data input 8a of the second
25 multiplexer 8 at which there is present either the first or the second input datum A or B, which, depending on the logic level of the second selection signal S2, is present in its turn at the output 6d of the first multiplexer 6. In this condition, therefore, the calculation circuit 1 operates as a circuit for selecting the greater or the lesser of the two input data A and B and hence as a circuit for calculating logical fuzzy union and intersection operations.

In particular, when the first selection signal S1 assumes a low logic level, then the calculation circuit 1 performs the fuzzy union operation, whereas when the first selection signal S1 assumes a high logic level, the calculation circuit 1 performs the fuzzy intersection operation.

5 In fact, when the first selection signal S1 assumes a low logic level, if the sign flag F assumes the logic value "0", indicating that the first input datum A is greater than the second input datum B, then the second selection signal S2 assumes a low logic value and hence the output 6d of the first multiplexer 6 is connected to the first datum input 6a of the first multiplexer 6 at which precisely the first input datum A is present, whereas if
10 the sign flag F assumes the logic value "1", indicating that the second input datum B is greater than the first input datum A, then the second selection signal S2 assumes a high logic value and hence the output 6d of the first multiplexer 6 is connected to the second datum input 6b of said first multiplexer 6 at which precisely the second input datum B is present.

15 Therefore, in the present calculation circuit 1 the greater and the lesser of the two data A and B is determined by performing a subtraction operation by means of the subtracter 2, an identity check operation performed, by means of the XOR logic gate 4, between the sign of the result D of the subtraction operation and the logic level of the first selection signal S1 and a selection operation performed, by means of the first multiplexer 6,
20 between the two input data A and B as a function of the result of the identity check operation represented by the second selection signal S2 just supplied at the output of the XOR logic gate.

An examination of the features of the calculation circuit 1 will reveal the advantages it is able to provide.

25 In particular, the present calculation circuit 1 has an extremely simple architecture formed by components (a subtracter, an XOR logic gate and two multiplexers) generally present in conventional architectures dedicated to the calculation of arithmetic/logical operations and so it may be employed in simple manner in any digital device or in a microcontroller provided with a common arithmetic logic unit (ALU), by

making use of the subtracter of the ALU which already exists and simply adding an XOR logic gate and two multiplexers.

Furthermore, because of the extremely simple architecture of the present calculation circuit it is possible to achieve a clear reduction, compared to known calculation circuits, of the number of program instructions required to determine the greater and the lesser of two data and hence a considerable saving of memory space occupied by the program.

Furthermore, in the present calculation circuit the result of a fuzzy union or intersection operation is available at the output after a single clock cycle in that on the one hand, there is no need to perform any type of conditional jump routine or register data reloading routine, operations which are known to require several clock cycles to perform, and on the other hand the only synchronous operation is that of subtraction whereas all the others are asynchronous and so the processing time required to perform them is no longer than a common subtraction operation.

The fact should also be stressed that the calculation circuit 1, as a structure for calculating fuzzy union and intersection operations, also operates without the second multiplexer 8 which is in fact essential in the case in which: a) the calculation circuit 1 is employed on an arithmetic logic unit (ALU) using the subtracter thereof; in this case, in fact, the operation of the subtracter as such must also be ensured; and b) the calculation structure formed by the subtracter 2, the XOR logic gate 4 and the first multiplexer 6 is also desired to be used as a simple subtracter.

Finally it will be clear that modifications and variants may be introduced to the calculation circuit described and illustrated herein without thereby departing from the scope of the present invention.

For example, the logic values assumed by the sign flag F when $A \geq B$ and $A < B$ could be opposite to those described, *i.e.*, they may be $F=1$ if $A \geq B$ and $F=0$ if $A < B$, just as the subtracter 2 could perform a subtraction operation opposite to that illustrated, *i.e.*, calculate $D=B-A$, and also in this case it would be possible for $F=1$ if $B \geq A$ and $F=0$ if $B < A$ or $F=0$ if $B \geq A$ and $F=1$ if $B < A$.

In particular, if a subtracter is used which performs the operation $D=A-B$ and outputs a sign flag F where $F=1$ if $A \geq B$ and $F=0$ if $A < B$, then the first selection signal $S1$ should assume a high logic level when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical operation of fuzzy union and a low logic level when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical operation of fuzzy intersection.

If a subtracter which performs the operation $D=B-A$ is used, then if the sign flag F supplied is $F=1$ if $B \geq A$ and $F=0$ if $B < A$, then the first selection signal $S1$ should assume a low logic level when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical operation of fuzzy union and a high logic level when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical operation of fuzzy intersection, whereas if the sign flag F supplied is $F=0$ if $B \geq A$ and $F=1$ if $B < A$, then the first selection signal $S1$ should assume a high logic level when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical operation of fuzzy union and a low logic level when the calculation circuit 1 is desired to perform the logical operation of fuzzy intersection.

Furthermore, the XOR logic gate could be replaced by an XNOR logic gate, just as the inputs of the two multiplexers 6, 8 could be exchanged; in both cases the logic levels of the first selection signal $S1$ will have to be modified as a result.

In general therefore, any change in the operation performed by the subtracter 2 and in the logic value assumed by the sign flag F as a function of the relationship existing between the input data A and B and any change made to the inputs of the multiplexers 6, 8 is simply expressed by the re-configuration of the logic values assumed by the first selection signal $S1$ with no modification of the hardware of the calculation circuit.

Finally, when calculating logical fuzzy union and intersection operations to be performed on three or more data it is sufficient to provide several calculation circuits of the type described above arranged in cascade, in which, apart from the first circuit which performs the calculation on any two of the input data, in the calculation circuits in cascade one of the two data supplied to it at the input is the datum outputted by the preceding calculation circuit.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except as by the appended claims.